

Read the New Testament in a Year

(Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer)

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April 23rd. Luke 17:1-19.

Reflect: Being able to keep on forgiving is only possible if there is an "increase in our faith." Faith is marked not only by a forgiving heart but by a grateful one too (verses 17-19). *Prayer: "Lord, may my life be full of faith, forgiveness and gratitude. Amen."*

April 24th. - Luke 17:20-37.

Reflect: Most people around us seem totally blind to spiritual realities - just like in Noah's or Lot's time. Don't be like them. Instead be ready at all times for the coming of God's kingdom. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, create a hunger for you in me and in our nation. Amen."*

April 25th. - Luke 18:1-17.

Reflect: "God be merciful to me a sinner!" We will never stop needing to pray that prayer this side of eternity. Thank God that he **IS** merciful to us sinners!!! *Prayer: "Lord, never let me forget that I have everything by your grace! Amen."*

April 26th. - Luke 18:18-43.

Reflect: It's hard for wealthy people to enter God's kingdom because they habitually depend on their riches rather than calling on God's help. Does that describe us too?! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you that you can do the impossible for me! Amen."*

April 27th. - Luke 19:1-27.

Reflect: Zacchaeus' heart, values and lifestyle was changed completely through his encounter with Jesus' acceptance and love. This is what changes us too. *Prayer: "Dear Saviour, thank you for loving and accepting me. Amen."*

April 28th. - Luke 19:28-48.

Reflect: If Jesus rode a donkey through your neighbourhood, what kind of reception would he get? What would happen if he turned the church furniture upside down? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, by your grace, may I always be ready for your arrival. Amen."*

April 29th. - Luke 20:1-19.

Reflect: People today still ask by what authority Jesus (and his church) makes his claims? Tragically people still reject the cornerstone. Don't be one of them! *Prayer: "Lord, help me to recognise who you are (Saviour) and to follow you. Amen."*

April 30th. - Luke 20:20-47.

Reflect: Often people want to argue a point from the Bible as a way of avoiding facing up to Jesus' claims. When they finally meet Jesus, they too are often astonished. *Prayer: "Well said, Teacher! Yes Jesus, you alone can teach us the Truth. Amen."*

April 1st. - Luke 6:1-26.

Reflect: Would you feel blessed if you had to endure poverty, hunger, sorrow, or persecution for your faith? The blessing is in belonging to God's kingdom! *Prayer: "Lord, keep me close to you in the midst of life's troubles! Amen."*

April 2nd. - Luke 6:27-47.

Reflect: Jesus calls us to be more like him - to be full of love! Our heavenly Father is merciful. How much of the family resemblance [God's mercy] can be seen in you? *Prayer: "Lord, fill my heart and life with your compassion and love. Amen."*

April 3rd. - Luke 7:1-28.

Reflect: Who would dare to stop a funeral procession? Jesus did! He feels the same compassion over our loss and grief. He also promises to raise us to eternal life! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to trust in you when confronted by death. Amen."*

April 4th. - Luke 7:29-50.

Reflect: Jesus was a friend of tax collectors and sinners. He still is! He lovingly accepts us and forgives us. Such great love moves us to love Jesus in return. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for your love, acceptance, and forgiveness. Amen."*

April 5th. - Luke 8:1-25.

Reflect: What are some of the things that make you deaf to God's Word or hinder its influence on your life? God wants us to put his Word into practice! *Prayer: "Lord, make me eager to both hear and to live by your Word. Amen."*

April 6th. - Luke 8:26-56.

Reflect: Our coming to faith mightn't be as dramatic as this man with the demons, but we are all called to, "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." *Prayer: "Lord, thank you for saving me. Help me to tell others about it. Amen."*

April 7th. - Luke 9:1-20.

Reflect: First Jesus tells his disciples to feed the crowd of over 5,000. Then he himself feeds them. We are often not equal to the task but Jesus always gives in abundance! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, teach me to always trust in your great generosity. Amen."*

April 8th. - Luke 9:21-43.

Reflect: Peter had just confessed that Jesus was the Christ (the Messiah). He had still one more thing to learn: That this meant the cross, both for Jesus and for his followers! *Prayer: "Lord, help me to deny myself, take up my cross daily and follow you! Amen."*

April 9th. - Luke 9:44-62.

Reflect: What excuses do you come up with for delaying following (or obeying) Jesus? How would you summarise the cost of following Jesus in your own life? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, give me both the faith and the courage to follow you. Amen."*

April 10th. - Luke 10:1-24.

Reflect: Jesus says that although the harvest is plentiful, the labourers are few. We are "blessed" (v 23) to know Jesus. Others will also be blessed if we tell them about him! *Prayer: "Here am I Lord, send me to work in your harvest field. Amen."*

April 11th. - Luke 10:25-42.

Reflect: Jesus turns the question around from "Who is my neighbour?" to "What kind of neighbour am I to others?" The Good Shepherd teaches us to be Good Samaritans! *Prayer: "Lord, may your love fill me and flow out to others. Amen."*

April 12th. - Luke 11:1-28.

Reflect: We all need to grow in prayer: Both in knowing what to say (Jesus shows us the kind of things to pray for in the Lord's Prayer) and in being persistent in prayer. *Prayer: "Lord, help me to grow and mature in my prayer life. Amen."*

April 13th. - Luke 11:29-54.

Reflect: Even though you are a Christian, have you sometimes neglected justice and the love of God? Has your lifestyle in some way hindered others entering God's kingdom (v52)? *Prayer: "Merciful Saviour, forgive my failures and renew my faith. Amen."*

April 14th. - Luke 12:1-21.

Reflect: The parable of the Rich Fool has a lot to say to our materialistic culture! If life does not consist in the abundance of our possessions, what does it consist of? *Prayer: "Lord, help me to find my life's riches in you. Amen."*

April 15th. - Luke 12:22-40.

Reflect: It's all a question of priorities: God doesn't deny us the necessities of life. On the contrary, when we trust in God (seek his kingdom), these too will be

provided! *Prayer: "Lord, help me to put you first in my life and to trust in your care. Amen."*

April 16th. - Luke 12:41-59.

Reflect: How much has God given you? How much has he entrusted you with? How responsibly are you exercising his trust in you? Are you ready to give account? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to be a good steward of your gifts to me. Amen."*

April 17th. - Luke 13:1-17.

Reflect: Each of us are living in the "one more year of grace" because of Jesus. God is keen that our lives bear fruit. That's only possible because of and by God's grace! *Prayer: "Jesus, renew me by your grace and produce in me much fruit. Amen."*

April 18th. - Luke 13:18-35.

Reflect: Does Jesus need to repeat his words of woe about Jerusalem over our country? Your church? Your home? Jesus is still willing! How about you? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, make my heart willing to respond to your call. Amen."*

April 19th. - Luke 14:1-14.

Reflect: Jesus wants to teach us here about compassion, humility and hospitality. How do these values differ from those of the world around us? *Prayer: "Lord, help me to live my life according to your values. Amen."*

April 20th. - Luke 14:15-35.

Reflect: Many people wrongly imagine that entry into God's kingdom is by merit. What does this parable of the Great Banquet teach us about grace and salvation? *Prayer: "Lord, thank you for graciously inviting me to your eternal banquet. Amen."*

April 21st. - Luke 15:1-32.

Reflect: Re-read the 3 parables of the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son and take special note of the joy that accompanies them being found. God rejoices over us being found! *Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank you for welcoming me home. Amen."*

April 22nd. - Luke 16:1-31.

Reflect: In what ways is money a rival to God? In what ways can money be a servant of God? It all depends on your attitude! What does God think of your heart? *Prayer: "Lord, free me from the love of money and teach me generosity. Amen."*